

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 215042

61

ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:AR DAY:TH:CF

APPROVED BY NEA:ADUBS

S: COVEY

S/S: PSEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 215042

NODIS

FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, US, SA

SUBJECT: SIDEWINDERS AND MAVERICKS

REF: JIDDA 5853

1. THE SECRETARY APPRECIATED YOUR PROMPT EXPRESSION OF VIEW ON THE PROBLEMS WE WOULD FACE WITH THE SAUDIS IN CUTTING BACK THE SIDEWINDER AND MAVERICK SALES. WE ARE STILL UNDER EXTREME PRESSURE FROM THE HILL ON THESE LOA'S, AND THE SECRETARY WOULD LIKE YOUR JUDGMENT ON TWO POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE COURSES OF ACTION:

-- REDUCE THE NUMBER OF SIDEWINDERS TO 900 AND THE NUMBER OF MAVERICKS TO 1,000, ALTHOUGH IN THE CASE OF THE MAVERICKS WE MIGHT HAVE TO DROP BACK TO 900 AS WELL;

-- HOLD TO 1,000 SIDEWINDERS BUT POSTPONE THE MAVERICK SALE UNTIL NEXT YEAR.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 215042

2. WHICH OF THESE DO YOU THINK WOULD CAUSE US THE LEAST

PROBLEM WITH THE SAUDIS, HAVING IN MIND THAT WE COULD  
EXPLAIN THE POSTPONEMENT OF THE MAVERICK SALE TO THE  
SAUDIS BY SAYING THAT THE DIFFICULTIES WE ARE NOW EXPER-  
IENCING ARE DUE TO ELECTION POLITICS, WHICH WOULD NOT BE  
A FACTOR AT THE TIME WE WOULD SUBMIT THE SALE NEXT YEAR?  
3. THE SECRETARY'S OWN PERSONAL REACTION IS THAT WE  
SHOULD GIVE THE SAUDIS THE REDUCED NUMBERS OF EACH  
WEAPON SINCE TO DROP THE MAVERICK SALE COMPLETELY AT  
THIS POINT MIGHT ESTABLISH AN UNFORTUNATE PRECEDENT VIS-  
A-VIS THE HILL. HE WOULD LIKE YOUR VIEWS ON THE  
REACTIONS AT THAT END, HOWEVER, AND WE WILL NEED THEM BY  
OPENING OF BUSINESS TUESDAY, AUGUST 31. YOU SHOULD OF  
COURSE STILL NOT APPROACH THE SAUDIS ON THE MATTER. KISSINGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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